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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/021,012 | YASUKAWA, MASAHIRO |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Mike Qi | 2871 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment of Jan. 3, 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 10,11 and 16-26.
3. The drawings filed on 19 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/955,461.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 10-11 and 16-26 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record neither discloses nor teaches a structure for a liquid crystal panel comprising various elements as claimed, more specifically, as the following:

a scribed region arranged on an outer side of the periphery region, a step formed between the periphery region and the scribed region, the laminate structure having a sidewall at the step; and a passivation film covering the sidewall of the laminate structure and comprising a silicon nitride film as shown in the Fig.4; and the periphery region having a step and a sidewall at the step, and the passivation film covering the sidewall as shown in Fig.4 [claims 10, 17, 20 and 23];

an insulating interlayer formed between the reflecting electrodes and the light shielding layer, the insulating interlayer having laminated structure in which silicon nitride stacked on silicon oxide and the silicon oxide being thicker than silicon nitride between the reflecting electrodes, and a passivation film formed of another silicon oxide covering the reflecting electrodes and the space between the adjacent reflecting electrode such as shown in Fig.16 [claim 26].

The closest references such as Kobayashi, Shintani and Shimada disclose a structure for a liquid crystal panel in which the peripheral portion having laminate structure, and the passivation film covering the reflecting electrodes, and the insulating

interlayer comprising silicon nitride or silicon oxide. However, the prior art of record do not disclose a passivation film covering the sidewall of a laminate structure and a step formed between the periphery region and the scribed region as shown in the Fig.4; and the laminated insulating structure in which silicon nitride stacked on silicon oxide and the silicon oxide being thicker than silicon nitride between the reflecting electrodes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Qi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Qi
February 22, 2005


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER